

POLICY: Religious Education

Subject Leader: Mr Gregor Smith

Our Mission

It is our aim to enable every member of our school family to flourish and live life in all its fullness by:

Teaching a broad and balanced curriculum, holistically nurturing and developing our children, helping those in need through loving service, confronting injustice in our world and caring for creation.

The Management of Religious Education at St Peter's.

At St Peter's we strive to teach RE to the highest standard, always striving for excellence and we reflect the school's distinctive Christian character.

The management of RE is a distinctive role of Governors and the Headteacher. RE is taught in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

At St Peter's we adopt the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Syllabus for RE and Understanding Christianity which fulfils all the legal requirements and the RE Statement of Entitlement from the Church of England Education Office 2016. As well as Christianity the programme includes Islam, Judaism and Hinduism.

RE and Collective Worship naturally compliment and enrich one another but they are managed separately and therefore have different subject leaders.

Religious Education at St Peter's lies at the very heart of the curriculum.

"In Church of England schools the students and their families can expect a religious education curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. Church schools should provide a wide range of opportunities for learners to understand and to make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of the range of faiths and world views studied. Church schools should use some form of enquiry approach that engages with, for example Biblical text, and helps develop religious and theological literacy. Links with the Christian values of the school and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are intrinsic to the RE curriculum and should have a significant impact on learners."

RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016

At St Peter's the following time is allocated to teaching RE:

In line with the Church of England Education Office 2016 guidance, Christianity should be the majority study in RE in every school. In Church schools that should be clearly adhered to. In both KS1 and KS2 at least 2/3rds of RE curriculum is to be Christianity. Sufficient dedicated curriculum time, meeting explicitly RE objectives, however organised, should be committed to the delivery of RE. This should aim to be close to 10% but must be no less than 5%.

- A minimum of 67 minutes per week in KS1 and 70 minutes per week in KS2 curriculum time is devoted to RE.
- Christianity plays a central role in RE, taking up between two thirds and three quarters of the time available.

- Appropriate teaching about other faiths and world views are included.

The aims of Religious Education at St Peter's are:

- To enable pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living faith that influences the lives of people worldwide and as the religion that has most shaped British culture and heritage.
- To enable pupils to know and understand about other major world religions and worldviews, their impact on society, culture and the wider world, enabling pupils to express ideas and insights.
- To contribute to the development of pupils own spiritual/philosophical convictions, exploring and enriching their own beliefs and values.
(RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016)

Appropriate to age at the end of their education in Church schools the expectation is that all pupils are religiously literate and, as a minimum, pupils are able to:

- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and worldviews in their search for God and meaning.
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.

(RE Statement of Entitlement: The Church of England Education Office 2016)

This can be expressed in more detail and distinctively as:

We learn about:

- God who reveals the truth about himself and humanity through creation, the giving of the law, his action in history and through the prophets.
- God who reveals himself ultimately in Jesus his Son, living among us and dying and rising for us.
- God who reveals himself in his Spirit working in the living faith of the Church experienced through scripture, culture, tradition and reason.

We learn from:

- An empathetic response to the Christian faith and a critical engagement with it.
- Responding personally to the stories and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Examples of Christian living which give priority to the values of unconditional love, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, compassion and faith.

Religious Education at St Peter's also helps pupils to:

- Learn about other faiths, their beliefs, traditions and practices and from them through encounter and dialogue.
- Recognise and respect those of all faiths in their search for God.
- Recognise areas of common belief and practice between different faiths.
- Enrich and expand their understanding of truth while remaining faithful to their own tradition.

- Enrich their own faith through examples of holy living in other traditions.

Religious Education at St Peter's helps pupils to:

- Reflect theologically and explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.
- Reflect critically on the truth claims of Christian belief.
- See how the truth of Christianity is relevant today.
- Understand the challenge faced by Christians in today's pluralist and postmodern society.
- Develop the skills to handle the Bible text.
- Recognise that faith is based on commitment to a particular way of understanding God and the world.
- Begin to develop their own commitments, beliefs and values.
- Develop a sense of themselves as significant, unique and precious.
- Experience the breadth and variety of the Christian community.
- Engage in thoughtful dialogue with other faiths and traditions.
- Become active citizens, serving their neighbour.
- Find a reason for hope in a troubled world.
- Understand how religious faith can sustain believers in difficult circumstances and in the face of opposition.

Religious Education at St Peter's should enable:

- Pupils and teachers to talk openly and freely about their own personal beliefs and practice without fear of ridicule.
- Pupils to make excellent and appropriate progress in their knowledge and understanding of Christianity.
- Pupils from Christian families to talk openly about their beliefs and values in lessons and to grow in their faith.
- Pupils from other faith backgrounds to understand and be encouraged in their faith.
- Pupils with no religious background to be given an insight into what it means to be a person of faith.
- Pupils of all backgrounds to have a safe place to explore the ultimate questions and challenges of life in today's society.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development:

Spiritual development within RE at St Peter's enriches and encourages the children's discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment.

Moral development is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, which offers pupils a secure foundation stone on which to make decisions to build their lives.

Social development enriches children's understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice.

Cultural development provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multicultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.

SEN Provision

Work is differentiated by teaching staff to allow access for all children. *(Please read this policy in conjunction with the school's SEN policy.)*

Resources

Resources are maintained by the subject leader. Each class has their own resources relating to their units. There is also a central store in the staffroom and a range of relevant books in both school libraries. There are three sets of Bibles: one for lower KS2; a set in Year 5; and one in Year 6. Teaching staff are asked on a regular basis if they require additional resources. Many of our resources are linked to the Blackburn Diocese materials and the Understanding Christianity website.

Assessment and record keeping

At the end of each unit of work teachers complete a class 'Assessment and Recording' sheet linked to the 'ladder of expectations' which can be found on each unit of work. The subject leader correlates the assessment and recording sheets on a termly basis to ensure that the quality of provision in RE. Class teachers record individual pupils' progress termly against age-related expectations.

It is important that the children are provided with a variety of opportunities to record their work. Assessment and recording will include;

- Pupil discussions and questioning conversations.
- Pupil discussions about their recorded work.
- Verbal/Written feedback relevant to the RE learning objective.
- Comments/work recorded in the RE scrapbook
- Subject Leader book scrutiny
- Class displays
- Lesson observations.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal at St Peter's:

The Worship and Religious Education provided by St Peter's is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Parents may request the governing board to provide Religious Education for their children according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. This can only be requested when parents cannot, with reasonable convenience, arrange for their children to attend another school where Religious Education is provided according to the locally Agreed Syllabus. The governing board should make provision unless the circumstances make it unreasonable to do so.

Should the governing board be unable to make such arrangements for Religious Education to be delivered according to the Agreed Syllabus, the responsibility for doing



so then falls on the Local Authority. The Local Authority may decide that such a request for separate Religious Education is unreasonable and the parental request then fails.

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body	Caroline Whittingham
Date	January 2022
Review Date	January 2025